

"In India, age counts for you," said Sohi, a retired army general who immigrated here three years ago. "But in America, age goes against you. We should get over the barriers of age. We want to show everyone that we can still do well at our age."

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE  
LESTER F. HERRSCHAFT

**HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 3, 1997*

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to your attention the Honorable Lester F. Herrschaft, Councilman for the City of Clifton, New Jersey who is being honored by Knights of Columbus Council 3769 as their "Man of the Year."

Councilman Herrschaft was born and raised in the City of Clifton. He is a graduate of Clifton Elementary School No. 6 and Clifton High School. He entered the service upon graduation from high school and served with the Army (infantry) in Europe during World War II. He is a member of the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Clifton Chapter No. 1, the American Legion Post No. 8 and the Athenia Veterans Post, Military Order of the Purple Heart.

Councilman Herrschaft is a principal and chief financial officer of Albert A. Stier Inc., and affiliated Realty Corporations of Clifton and manager of Styertowne Shopping Center. While successful professionally, Councilman Herrschaft has never forgotten about his community.

His involvements are numerous. Councilman Herrschaft has served for 15 years on the Clifton Board of Education, and for seven of those years, served as president. He is a former trustee of both the Clifton Boys Club and the Passaic-Clifton Boys Club and the Passaic-Clifton YMCA, has served as Special Gifts Chairman of the Passaic Valley United Way, and serves on the board of the Clifton Adult Opportunity Center. Councilman Herrschaft further served on the Board of Governors of Passaic General Hospital. He serves on the Advisory Board of the Valley National Bank and was appointed by the Supreme Court to serve on the Passaic County Legal Free Arbitration Committee. He is a member and past president of the Clifton Rotary Club. He is a member of Clifton Lodge No. 203 and president of the Clifton Masonic Temple Association. Councilman Herrschaft was the recipient of the Joseph J. Kolodziej Humanitarian Award in February 1993 and the Clifton Optimist Man of the Year in 1995.

Councilman Herrschaft was elected to his third term of the Clifton Municipal Council in July 1994. He contributes to many charitable endeavors. Councilman Herrschaft is a member of the Salaam Temple of the Shrine and is actively involved in the support of the Shrine Crippled Childrens Hospital and Burn Center.

Councilman Herrschaft is a graduate of Fairleigh Dickinson University where he was awarded his Bachelor of Science degree, majoring in management. He and his wife, Dorothy, reside in Clifton and have two sons, Skip and Peter and three grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me, our colleagues, Councilman Herrschaft's family and

friends and the City of Clifton in recognizing the outstanding and invaluable service to the community of the Honorable Lester F. Herrschaft, Councilman for the City of Clifton.

ADDRESSING HOMELESSNESS

**HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 3, 1997*

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, on June 5, the fifth graders from Somerset Elementary School and the Montgomery County Coalition for the Homeless will present a symposium, "Wake Up Montgomery County!" It is with a great deal of pride that I honor this school, which has worked over the years to provide the homeless in Montgomery County with support and compassion. Led by the efforts of a remarkable fifth grade teacher, Ms. Vicky Fisk, every child that graduates from Somerset has a deep sense of community obligation and a better understanding of what it is like to spend the night on the street or in a shelter.

Ms. Fisk has been working with Montgomery County homeless shelters for 10 years. I would like to relay to you some of the experiences her students have had, for the most part in their own words. Their fifth grade year begins by researching and then writing essays, reports and papers about the homeless.

During our research, we learned that the main causes of homelessness are drugs, alcohol, mental illness and the working poor \* \* \* Working poor means that they have a job, but it doesn't pay them enough to rent a place to live \* \* \* Here is why you should not stop drug and alcohol education programs. If you did stop the programs the number of homeless will increase more than it does now every year.

We have raised money to buy coats for the children at Helping Hands Shelter. We then went to classrooms and informed students what we were going to do for the homeless \* \* \* We collected items from room to room for a month. We collected 1,200 items in a cart called "The Caring Cart." After four weeks went by, our class went to shelters giving out what we have collected \* \* \* Some of these items are toilet paper, laundry detergent, and deodorant \* \* \* It really helped the homeless.

Ms. Fisk's fifth grade does not stop there. They go on to challenge me and other Members of Congress to do more for the homeless. "What have you done?" they have asked me. "If you have a big speech about this, people will listen. [The homeless] need your support. They are American citizens, just as important as anyone. Did you know that there are more than 2,000 homeless people in Montgomery County alone? The homeless need your help."

I could not say it better. I have learned from the youngsters in Somerset Elementary School and I know that whomever stops in at their school at 5811 Warwick Place between 7 and 8:30 p.m. on June 5 will be very inspired.

A TRIBUTE TO BEVERLY HARPER  
ON HER SELECTION AS ONE OF  
PENNSYLVANIA'S BEST 50  
WOMEN IN BUSINESS

**HON. THOMAS M. FOGLIETTA**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 3, 1997*

Mr. FOGLIETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Ms. Beverly Harper of Philadelphia. Ms. Harper was recently named one of Pennsylvania's Best 50 Women in Business, an honor she rightly deserves for her business savvy and her contributions to the community. One of two thousand nominees for the honor, Harper was nominated by the Ben Franklin Technology Center of southeastern Pennsylvania. Candidates were required to be owners, presidents, CEO's, or in a position with significant authority in the decisionmaking of the business. Ms. Harper certainly meets these standards as the founder and president of Portfolio Associates, Inc., a firm that specializes in public relations, advertising, marketing, and market research.

Since its founding in 1969, Portfolio Associates has handled numerous big-name accounts, including: Southeastern Pennsylvania Public Transportation Authority [SEPTA], University of Pennsylvania Health System, Philadelphia Gas Works, and the Philadelphia Convention and Visitors Bureau, among others.

In addition to her successes in the business world, Beverly Harper is active in community organizations and is a supporter of the arts in Philadelphia. She spearheaded Greek Row, a movement to help Greek organizations develop a Panhellenic center and spur development in the distressed neighborhoods of North Philadelphia. Ms. Harper and her staff have regularly participated in career days at local schools, and have made a practice of adopting a school or family struggling with hardship, in an effort to enhance educational opportunities and improve self-esteem in low-income neighborhoods.

Ms. Harper is a member of the Community Trust Board of the West Philadelphia Empowerment Zone and is on the board of directors at the Philadelphia Orchestra and the Philadelphia Dance Co. Mr. Speaker, in light of her many contributions to the city of Philadelphia, and in recognition of her recent inclusion in the list of Pennsylvania's top businesswomen, I ask that my colleagues join me today in honoring Beverly A. Harper.

COMMEMORATING THE CENTENNIAL  
CONGRESS OF THE AMERICAN  
OPTOMETRIC ASSOCIATION

**HON. RICHARD A. GEPHARDT**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 3, 1997*

Mr. GEPHARDT. Mr. Speaker, thousands of optometrists from across the nation will convene in my hometown of St. Louis, June 11-15, for the Centennial Congress of the American Optometric Association [AOA]. It is fitting that this milestone event be held in St. Louis because it has been the home of the AOA since 1953.